

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing Of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic implant configured to be implanted into a space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

a foraminous, corrugated biocompatible material formed into a sleeve, which sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

wherein the implant is provided with a first end, a second end and a length dimension extending therebetween;

wherein the first end and the second end are open;

wherein the first open end is adapted to contact the first one of the vertebrae;

wherein the second open end is adapted to contact the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the implant bears a load between the first one of the vertebrae and the second one of the vertebrae; and

wherein the implant has corrugations extending radially outward around an axis extending from the first one of the vertebrae to the second one of the vertebrae; and

wherein the biocompatible material from which the sleeve is formed has a thickness dimension in the size range of about 0.5 mm to about 3.0 mm.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is provided with a plurality of lobes and depressions.

4. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the biocompatible material is titanium.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is provided with four lobes and four depressions.

7. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is provided with six lobes and six depressions.

8. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is constructed from a foraminous corrugated loop.

9. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is constructed from a foraminous corrugated sheet.

10. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant is comprised of an intersecting network of landed regions that define a plurality of openings in the network, wherein the openings are dispersed among the landed regions.

11. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant has a substantially circular shape.

12. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1 wherein the implant has a substantially elliptical shape.

13. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein the implant surrounds a material selected from the group consisting of bone graft material and a bone growth promoting material and mixtures thereof.

14. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein the sleeve includes a plurality of openings and the implant further comprises a cerclage passing through the openings and being secured around the sleeve.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Original) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein the sleeve is an inner sleeve and the implant further comprises an outer sleeve adapted to surround the inner sleeve.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 1, wherein bone is placed in the implant prior to implanting.

24. (Cancelled)

25. (Currently Amended) An orthopedic implant configured to be implanted into a space between a first vertebra and a second vertebra, comprising:

a foraminous, corrugated biocompatible material formed into a sleeve, which sleeve is configured as an endless loop;

wherein the implant is provided with a first end, a second end and a length dimension extending therebetween;

wherein the first end and the second end are open;

wherein the first open end is adapted to contact the first one of the vertebrae;

wherein the second open end is adapted to contact the second one of the vertebrae;

wherein the implant bears a load between the first one of the vertebrae and the second one of

the vertebrae;

wherein the implant has corrugations extending radially outward around an axis extending from the first one of the vertebrae to the second one of the vertebrae; and

wherein the biocompatible material is titanium.

26. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is provided with a plurality of lobes and depressions.

27. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the biocompatible material from which the sleeve is formed has a thickness dimension in the size range of about 0.5 mm to about 3.0 mm.

28. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is provided with four lobes and four depressions.

29. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is provided with six lobes and six depressions.

30. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is constructed from a foraminous corrugated loop.

31. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is constructed from a foraminous corrugated sheet.

32. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant is comprised of an intersecting network of landed regions that define a plurality of openings in the network, wherein the openings are dispersed among the landed regions.

33. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant has a substantially circular shape.

34. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant has a substantially elliptical shape.

35. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the implant surrounds a material selected from the group consisting of bone graft material and a bone growth promoting material and mixtures thereof.

36. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the sleeve includes a plurality of openings and the implant further comprises a cerclage passing through the openings and being secured around the sleeve.

37. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein the sleeve is an inner sleeve and the implant further comprises an outer sleeve adapted to surround the inner sleeve.

38. (Previously Presented) The orthopedic implant of claim 25, wherein bone is placed in the implant prior to implanting.